

**NEWS RELEASE from**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Lipinski Announces Introduction of Legislation to Help the Uninsured**

*Congressman Bill Lipinski released the following statement today regarding his bill, H.R. 583, the Fair Care for the Uninsured Act of 2003.*

“Today, I am proud to announce my co-sponsorship of legislation that would help the 42.6 million Americans who are currently without health insurance coverage. This uninsured population rose by about 1.4 million in 2001 and continues to rise. Many of these people are uninsured because their employer does not offer health coverage and they lack access to a government health insurance program. Others not only lost their job during the current economic downturn, but their medical benefits as well. It is time for Congress to help to lower the number of uninsured Americans and alleviate their fears of the possibility of a medical crisis. The Fair Care for the Uninsured Act of 2003 would do just that by creating a tax credit for the purchase of private health insurance. I was pleased to join Congressman Mark Kennedy last week in introducing this vital legislation.

No discrimination. No selectivity. No barriers, hurdles or loopholes. Fair Care creates a fully refundable tax credit of \$1,000 per adult, \$500 per child; for a maximum of \$3,000 per family. Not only does this legislation help the uninsured acquire health insurance, but it also empowers recipients to choose the health insurance plan that’s right for them. They are able to purchase a fee-for-service plan, a PPO, HMO, or MSA.

Perhaps best of all, the Fair Care proposal would abide by the doctor’s creed to “do no harm.” Fair Care includes protections against the disruption or discouragement of voluntary participation by employers currently providing employment-based health insurance to their workers. H.R. 583 requires employers to continue their health plans during the first five years after enactment. Furthermore, Fair Care would not drive up costs, forcing those currently insured to drop their coverage.

The bill builds upon the success of the health insurance safety nets that already exist for older, sicker Americans, by expanding them to all fifty states. Fair care provides for state-run “high risk pools” for those who are otherwise uninsurable.

It’s time to do something concrete to improve Americans’ access to health care. We can’t afford to wait for the number of uninsured to rise again. Therefore, I call on my colleagues to support this common sense, bipartisan legislation and work to lower the number of uninsured Americans.”

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